

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3103

To direct the Secretary of State to submit a report outlining the steps taken and plans made by the United States to end Turkey's blockade of Armenia.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 29, 2005

Mr. SCHIFF (for himself and Mr. PALLONE) introduced the following bill;
which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of State to submit a report outlining the steps taken and plans made by the United States to end Turkey's blockade of Armenia.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “End the Turkish
5 Blockade of Armenia Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. REPORT RELATING TO THE TURKISH-ARMENIAN**
7 **BORDER.**

8 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

1 (1) United States policy toward Turkey and the
2 south Caucasus has prioritized security, conflict res-
3 olution, ensuring open borders and commercial cor-
4 ridors, and regional cooperation.

5 (2) Turkey's ongoing blockade of Armenia does
6 not promote regional security and prosperity, there-
7 by undermining the short-term and long-term policy
8 objectives of the United States.

9 (3) The Department of State has estimated
10 that the blockade is inflating Armenia's transpor-
11 tation costs by between 30 and 35 percent, thereby
12 stifling its trade and economy.

13 (4) Turkey's blockade of Armenia has prevented
14 United States and international humanitarian assist-
15 ance from crossing its borders, which is a violation
16 of United States law, international human rights
17 and humanitarian standards, and Turkey's commit-
18 ments to the Organization for Security and Coopera-
19 tion in Europe (OSCE).

20 (5) Turkey is the only Council of Europe (CE)
21 country and NATO member to engage in a blockade
22 against a fellow CE country and has been repeatedly
23 urged by the European Union (EU) to open the last
24 closed border of Europe.

1 (6) United States, Turkish, NATO–Partnership
2 for Peace, and EU security and economic interests
3 depend on Turkey immediately and unconditionally
4 lifting its ongoing twelve-year blockade of Armenia.

5 (7) The removal of all blockades and border clo-
6 sures in and adjacent to the countries of the south
7 Caucasus will provide positive incentives for United
8 States private investment, increased trade with the
9 West, and other forms of economic and political
10 interactions with the global community.

11 (8) By lifting its blockade of Armenia, Turkey
12 will be playing a constructive role in continuing the
13 development of infrastructure necessary for regional
14 communications, transportation, energy, and trade
15 on an East-West axis.

16 (9) If there is to be a resolution of conflicts in
17 the region and a reduction of tensions along borders,
18 it is essential that this destructive blockade be lifted.

19 (b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
20 gress that the President and Secretary of State should call
21 upon Turkey to comply with the long-standing position of
22 the United States that in order to restore economic, polit-
23 ical, and cultural links with Armenia, Turkey should im-
24 mediately lift its ongoing blockade with Armenia.

1 (c) REPORT.—Not later than 30 days after the date
2 of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall
3 submit to the appropriate congressional committees a re-
4 port that outlines the steps taken and plans made by the
5 United States to end Turkey’s blockade of Armenia.

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